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April 7, 2003

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: John Russo, League President, City Attorney, Oakland

Re: **Designation of Voting Delegate for a Special Meeting (May 15<sup>th</sup>) of the League of California Cities General Assembly**  
**Response required by May 9.**

The Executive Committee of the League Board of Directors has called a Special Meeting of the General Assembly of the League on Thursday, May 15, 2003 at the Sacramento Community Center Theatre, beginning at 1:00 p.m. The purpose of this Special Meeting is to consider one or more proposals prepared by the Board of Directors concerning the state budget and state-local fiscal reform. **It is important that all cities be represented at this Special Meeting on Thursday, May 15, at 1:00 p.m. at the Sacramento Community Center Theatre. The meeting should be over by 3:30 p.m. (estimated).**

League bylaws state that "Any official of a Member City may, with the approval of the city council, be designated the city's designated voting delegate or alternate delegate to any League meeting. Designated voting delegates (or their alternates) constitute the League's General Assembly." To expedite the conduct of business at this important meeting, each city council should designate a voting representative and an alternate who will be present at the meeting. League bylaws provide that "representatives of each Member City present and in good standing collectively cast one vote." A voting card will be given to the city official designated by the city council on the enclosed "Voting Delegate Form."

Please complete and return the enclosed "Voting Delegate Form" to the Sacramento office of the League at the earliest possible time (**not later than Friday, May 9, 2003**), so that proper records may be established for the conference. The voting delegate may pick up the city's voting card at the designated Voting Card desk located in the lobby of the Sacramento Community Center Theatre. The Voting Card desk will be open from 11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Sacramento Community Center Theatre.

The voting procedures to be followed at this conference are printed on the reverse side of this memo.

Your help in returning the attached "Voting Delegate Form" as soon as possible is appreciated. If you have any questions, please call Lorraine Okabe at (916) 658-8236.

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1400 K Street  
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## League of California Cities

### Special Meeting of League General Assembly

#### Voting Procedures

1. Each member city has a right to cast one vote on matters pertaining to League policy.
2. To cast the city's vote, a city official must have in his or her possession the city's voting card and be registered with the Credentials Committee.
3. Prior to the Special Meeting, each city should designate a voting delegate and an alternate and return the Voting Delegate Form to the League Credentials Committee.
4. The voting delegate, or alternate, may pick up the city's voting card at the voting card desk in the lobby of the Sacramento Community Center Theatre.
5. Free exchange of the voting card between the voting delegate and alternate is permitted.
6. If neither the voting delegate nor alternate is able to attend the Special Meeting, the voting delegate or alternate may pass the voting card to another official from the same city by appearing **in person** before a representative of the Credentials Committee to make the exchange. Prior to the Special Meeting, exchanges may be made at the "Voting Card" table in the Sacramento Community Center Theatre lobby. At the Special Meeting, exchanges may be made at the "Voting Card" table located in the theatre area. Exchanges may not be made if a roll call vote is in progress because the Credentials Committee will be conducting the roll call.
7. In case of dispute, the Credentials Committee will determine the right of a city official to vote at the Special Meeting.



## League of California Cities

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**URGENT -- PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY**

Page 1 of 2

**To:** Mayor and Council Members, City Managers, Officers of League Divisions,  
Departments, Policy Committees and Caucuses  
**From:** John Russo, League President, City Attorney, Oakland  
**Date:** April 15, 2003  
**Subject:** Strategies to Protect Local Services and Revenues  
**Cc:** Members, League Board of Directors

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On April 7 I sent a letter to all mayors and council members, asking that they appoint a delegate from their cities to attend a special Membership Meeting in Sacramento on May 15. At that time delegates will be asked to consider one or more proposals prepared by the Board of Directors concerning the state budget and state-local fiscal reform.

The purpose of this memo is to provide more information about the special membership meeting, and the additional activities the League has undertaken to achieve progress towards its goal of protecting local services and revenues.

### **The Special Membership Meeting: A Unique Opportunity for Leadership**

Recent political polling by the League of California Cities and others indicates that the state's current fiscal crisis, coupled with voters' dissatisfaction with state leadership, create what could be a unique opportunity for the League to make significant progress towards its primary goal for 2003 – protection of local services and revenues from state budget cuts. Voters are highly distrustful of state leaders. They want a resolution to the budget crisis. They understand and strongly support a balanced approach of cuts and revenues, particularly if those revenues are limited in term and dedicated to permanently addressing California's boom and bust budget cycle.

They are also strongly supportive of protecting local revenues from state grabs such as the ERAF shift that continues to drain property tax revenues away from communities and into the state coffers.

The League has called the special meeting because these factors provide an important opportunity to discuss a proposal to both balance the state budget and protect local revenues. Because of the natural shifting of public opinion that occurs over time, this opportunity may not be available to us in three months, six months, or in the future.

The resolution that will be presented to the membership is currently being drafted. It is expected to consist of a set of principles for balancing the state budget and reforming the fiscal system. The legislature could incorporate these principles into legislation or the budget bill, and submit elements requiring constitutional amendment for voter approval at a special ballot measure election, possibly this fall.

Alternatively, if the legislature declines to act on it, the proposal, in part or in total, could be placed on a statewide ballot through the initiative route, with the League and others as sponsors.

#### Moving Forward on Multiple Fronts: Other Essential Elements of a Revenue-Protection Strategy

The League board of directors adopted a number of 2003 strategies to achieve our goal of protecting local services and revenues. The League is involved in a number of activities to carry out these strategies. Some are familiar to our members. Others are relatively new, and evolving.

While members will hear more about all of these activities in future months, the following provides an overview.

- **Fundraising.** While lobbying and grassroots advocacy are essential to a strong legislative program, many political pros will confirm that having the ability to raise the funds needed to qualify and pass a statewide ballot measure is essential to securing "a place at the table" in the State Capitol. As a result of a recent decision by the League board of directors, the League will now be involved in fundraising both through voluntary contributions by city employees (the *Save Our Services* fund, or *SOS*), and through corporate/vendor/other contributions through *CITIPAC*, a new political action committee. While SOS funds will continue to be dedicated exclusively to city revenue protection, the new CITIPAC will provide funds for this and other ballot measure advocacy goals on behalf of cities.
- **Partnership-building with labor, business, education and other groups** with whom the League has not worked closely in the past, and who in some instances have worked in opposition to the League's goals and objectives.
- **Continuing to work with current coalition partners and the LOCAL Coalition** to educate legislators and the media about the risks to local services from state budget cutting proposals, and preparing for LOCAL-sponsored Legislative Action Days May 14-15.
- **Conducting ongoing regional grassroots activities** through the LOCAL coalition.
- **Closely examining positions taken on key legislative proposals**, with an eye towards strengthening partnerships with key legislators and other stakeholders who are candidates for partnership-building efforts. This means that some bills that the League would typically oppose based upon long-standing policy positions may be considered as lower priorities in light of the need to build stronger partnerships with some groups.

You will hear more about these activities in the weeks and months ahead through presentations at division and department meetings; at conferences and training sessions; and periodically through our Web site, Priority Focus, listserves and other outreach tools.

All of these activities are strategies we are pursuing in support of our primary goal of protecting local services and revenues. Each is essential to that effort. Viewed together, they comprise a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to achieving that goal.